11th July 1952]

Exhibition of films regarding visual education in schools and colleges.

* 35 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any proposal to issue licences during 1952–53 to private exhibitors of films in connexion with visual education in secondary schools and colleges; and

(*b*) if not, whether the Government propose to take up for sale the equipment of the private exhibitors who were issued licences in the previous years?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) No.

" (*b*) The matter is under consideration."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" May I know, Sir, whether in view of the fact that the Government during the last six months or more have not taken for sale the equipment with the private exhibitors, the Government would give an assurance on the floor of this House that they will do so within a month or two? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, as I have already stated, the matter is under the consideration of the Government and correspondence is going on between the Director of Public Instruction and the Government. I cannot give a categorical promise that it will be done within a month."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" Sir, an assurance had been given even on the 27th November 1951 through a communication of the Government that the matter of sale would be considered by them. As more than seven months have elapsed, I would like to have an assurance from the Government whether they are going to take the films for sale in the interests of the economy of the country before purchasing new films from abroad or not."

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, it is not merely a question of purchasing films. It is a question of purchasing other apparatus too which is obviously second-hand. The interests of the Government and the public have also to be safeguarded by a careful scrutiny of the matter before a decision is taken."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" May I know, Sir, why when over a thousand schools have not been equipped with projectors and films, the Government have suddenly come to the conclusion, after an experiment of one year, that private enterprise should be discouraged in this respect and schools should wait till they collect funds from the pupils with which to purchase projectors and films? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, the decision was taken in March 1951, when the entire responsibility for imparting visual education in educational institutions rested with the Government to the exclusion of private exhibitors.

[11th July 1952

The Central Film Library in the office of the Director of Public Instruction has been enlarged to the extent necessary and the schools are being asked to supply themselves with equipment. During the last year permits were given to some of the exhibitors to continue to exhibit their films. The latest decision was that it was not necessary to continue that arrangement."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that whereas 52 private exhibitors were licensed in 1950–51 only 9 were given licences during 1951–52 and, if so, the reason therefor?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, in 1951–52 no licences as such were given. Only some permits were given and they were necessarily limited in view of the policy of the Government."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" May I know, Sir, why this policy has been adopted by the Government from 1951–52 and why children in rural parts, especially in local board schools, should be deprived of the opportunity of visual education which they were enjoying during the year 1950–51 and why private enterprise should be throttled sacrificing the interests of the pupils and the public who have been contributing to the fund as special fees?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, until March 1951, the policy of the Government in the matter of audio-visual education was to allow private agencies to exhibit films in schools on terms to be settled between the managements and the exhibitors. It was found that there was considerable commercialisation and exploitation in this affair. The Government, therefore, in view of the principle of imparting visual instruction within the school hours in co-operation with the teachers in charge of it, decided upon a policy of eliminating commercialisation and exploitation."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" May I know, Sir, how there could have been commercial exploitation when the fees had been limited with reference to the number of films that had to be shown and how could the Government's account show so many thousands of rupees as having been made by the private film exhibitors unless hundreds of films had been exhibited by private exhibitors to enable them to realize such large amounts?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" I am afraid, I will be drawn into a debate on this question. I have only to state that the charges made by private exhibitors were bound to be very high and there was an attempt to reduce it and bring it within reasonable limits."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" May I, as a concluding question, Sir, just get an assurance from the Government that, at least at the low rates which have been prescribed by the Government, they will allow the 52 private exhibitors who were doing

11th July 1952]

some good social education work in 1950–51 to continue their work in the year 1952–53 or until such time as all schools are provided with their own projectors and films?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, Government will not only hasten the purchase of the equipment but will consider the hon. Member's suggestion also if it is necessary in the interests of education."

Delay in the preparation of estimates and execution of panchayat works.

* 36 *Q*.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state –

(*a*) whether representations have been made by the Panchayats about the great delay and difficulty experienced by them in the preparation of estimates for and execution of Panchayat works;

(*b*) whether centage charges are recovered from the Panchayats by the Highways Department for preparation of estimates for Panchayat works and execution thereof; and

(*c*) what steps the Government propose to take for the prompt execution of Panchayat works by the Highways Department?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (*a*) Representations were received from certain Panchayats regarding the difficulty experienced by them in the preparation of estimates for works relating to panchayats and in their execution.

" (*b*) Yes.

" (*c*) Government have approved a scheme for the appointment of one overseer for each Deputy Panchayat Officer's range to assist the panchayats in that range in the preparation of estimates and execution of works relating to Panchayats. To start with, the scheme has been put into operation in 12 selected Deputy Panchayat Officers' ranges. It is proposed to extend the scheme to other ranges also after the result of the working of the scheme in the selected areas is known."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" Sir, as the Government are levying centage charges on panchayat works, may I know if it would not be better if the Government appoint a special staff under the Divisional Engineers (Highways), so that they could prepare estimates and expedite the execution of panchayat works?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Sir, at present this experiment is being tried and some more overseers can be appointed."